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COMPLIANCE WITH ARMS LIMITATIONS AND DISARMAMENT OBLIGATIONS

Letter dated 16 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador on 14 June 1995, containing the text of the statement by the Government of Ecuador concerning the announcement by the Government of France of the resumption of nuclear tests in the Mururoa Atoll.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 57 of the provisional list.

(Signed) Luis VALENCIA RODRIGUEZ
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador on 14 June 1995 concerning the decision of the Government of France to resume nuclear testing in the Mururoa Atoll

The Government of Ecuador deeply regrets and expresses its disagreement with the decision by the Government of France to resume nuclear testing in the Mururoa Atoll. This step is at variance with the aim of limiting the proliferation of nuclear weapons embodied in the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which is now in force for an indefinite period.

Ecuador draws to the attention of the international community the fact that France took this decision at a time when, at the meeting of the parties to the non-proliferation Treaty which took place in New York from 17 April to 12 May 1995, a resolution was adopted by consensus calling upon the Conference on Disarmament to conclude negotiations on a comprehensive and total international nuclear-test-ban treaty.

Ecuador condemns nuclear tests of any kind; apart from constituting a first step towards the vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons, such tests have a serious impact on the stability of the environment, which respects no frontiers, and adversely affect human health.

For the foregoing reasons, Ecuador, together with the other members of the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific, issued a press release on 9 June 1995 proclaiming the firm intention of pursuing a policy of regional coordination with respect to the announcement of new nuclear tests in or around the area of the Pacific Ocean.